

Climate change

What can your council do?

1



2



3

We have 12 years to limit climate change catastrophe, warns UN

Urgent changes needed to cut risk of extreme heat, drought, floods and poverty, says IPCC

Overstated by climate change? More's what you can do

By MARIANNE
Environmental correspondent, BBC News

7 December 2018

UK climate change conference 2018

4

Counting the Cost: A Year of Climate Breakdown

Event	Estimated Cost (USD)
U.S. - Hurricanes Florence & Michael	\$32 billion
California, U.S. - Camp & Woolsey fires	\$9-13 billion
Europe - drought	\$7.5 billion
Japan - floods	\$9.3-12.5 billion
Argentina - drought	\$6 billion
China - floods	\$9.3 billion
Australia - drought	\$5.8-9 billion
Kerala, India - floods	\$3.7 billion
Cape Town, South Africa - drought	\$1.2 billion
Philippines & China - Typhoon Mangkhut	\$1-2 billion

2018

https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Counting_the_Cost.pdf

5

UN Environment

Explore Topics | News & Stories | Get Involved | Environment & You | Search

Home / News and Stories / Story

15 MARCH | 11:00 | EXCLUSIVE

Insect declines are a stark warning to humanity

6



7



8



9

What your council can do

- Declare a climate emergency
- Form a climate / environment action group
- Short-term actions
- Longer-term goals
- Inform and educate your local community

10

Declare a Climate Emergency

A hugely powerful statement to make to parishioners showing commitment to support other local councils and adding to the wave of communities demanding that Westminster takes a meaningful lead on addressing climate change.



11

FIRST STEPS

Agree to produce a climate action plan to reduce CO2 emissions. Use a carbon foot printing guide to measure your council's current carbon usage and set annual targets to become carbon neutral by 2030.

<https://www.carbontrust.com/resources/guides/carbon-footprinting-and-reporting/carbon-footprinting/>



12

Switch to a renewable energy supplier for all council run buildings / street lighting etc.



13

Install LED / low energy bulbs in all council run buildings / street lights
Become a 'dark sky town' and turn off street lights after 12pm



14

Actively work to reduce consumption, reduce waste and recycle. Use recycled paper & environmentally friendly cleaning products in all council facilities.



15

When awarding contracts for goods or services, recognise potential carbon emissions as another element to be considered alongside price.

Source locally wherever possible.



16

Commit to using LOAF ingredients (Local, Organic, Animal friendly, Fairly traded) at council functions. Make it a policy not to use disposable cups, plates or bottled water.



17

Medium to longer term actions

18

Communication

Act as a voice for the community to lobby for action on climate change, raise the profile & share lessons with higher levels of government. Lobby your MP, and Westminster for all initiatives that will support your community to reduce carbon emissions.



19

Create reliable and regular communication via a council web site, social media and the local press to share & exchange information with your local community, on how they can take positive action, where they can source environmentally friendly products and be involved with assisting their community to reduce its carbon emissions.



20

Policy and Planning

Develop a ten year Climate / Environment Action Plan, in consultation with the local community.

Create and regularly review a legally binding Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Ensure that the neighbourhood development plan includes policies to prevent installation of oil or gas heating systems in new homes or businesses as per government strategies.

21

Consider all new homes to be certified to Passivhaus Standards - www.passivhaustrust.org.uk or Net Zero Carbon Building Standards - www.ukgbc.org



22

Include provision for Clean Energy Schemes (wind turbines, solar arrays), and electric car charging points.



23

Energy / Water

Commission a thermal imaging study to highlight poor insulation in local homes and businesses.

Research and promote grant schemes / other funding to enable people in the community to retro fit their homes with better insulation.

Identify and liaise with organisations working with vulnerable people in your area, who may be able to help them access support, e.g. grant funding for insulation, renewable energy.

24

Install renewable energy sources on community buildings including community solar panels, passive solar water heating.



25

Work with your unitary or County Council and the Environment Agency to reduce water use and take flood prevention measures



26

Management of parks, green spaces, roadsides & pathways

A Climate Action Plan should include a plan for the maintenance of all council managed parks, green spaces, roadsides & pathways, and how they can be used for carbon sequestration, to promote biodiversity, and support local food production.



27

Climate Action Plan should also include a pollinator action plan.

Cut less grass & verges – re-wild areas instead. Plant wild flowers & meadows. This will reduce the need to mow (thereby reducing carbon emissions and cost) and will help support biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and our struggling insect populations

Consider creating wildlife areas in closed cemeteries



28

Stop using weedkillers and other chemicals in parks, green spaces, roadsides and pathways.

Explore natural methods of weed suppression or allow the weeds to thrive and enjoy them – many are beautiful and important food for wildlife. Hot water weed suppression systems could be purchased and shared between councils.



29

Plant trees for carbon capture & food – biodiversity is of utmost importance.



30

Use parks and green spaces for community growing projects. Education is key. Involve local schools in this.

Make play areas more natural needing less maintenance – encourage children to use their imagination instead and allow for risk taking. Children need to learn these skills..



31

Install bird & insect boxes. Another ideal project to involve local schools.



32

Employ or train gardeners, linesmen or groundsmen in regenerative gardening techniques.

Also ensure contractors understand and practice regenerative gardening.



33

Business / local producers

Encourage use of locally grown produce and actively support local producers who have adopted organic practices



34

Promote local businesses that offer refill options and support repair café & skills share projects.

Source locally wherever possible.



35

as another element to be considered alongside price.

Encourage local businesses & producers to declare a climate emergency and work towards becoming carbon neutral. Develop a council 'kite mark' or award scheme to reward local businesses / producers who are committed to working on this and celebrate progress.



36

Tourism / Recreation

Support public transport schemes that make it easier for tourists to travel by bus, train, bike and foot. Support provision of public toilets.

Encourage and promote responsible tourism.

Install water bottle refilling stations in village or town centres.



37

Transport

Install bike racks, especially at bus stops and train stations, and display a map with safe walking / cycling routes within the local area.

Promote public transport. Encourage and lobby for better and cheaper bus links to train stations and surrounding area. Consider reinstating imaginative public transport schemes, such as Corlink, especially for remote areas. (Corlink was a minibus service that was a cross between a bus service and a taxi, which responded to demand, could be booked from any point to any point, could take multiple parties at a time, and charged bus type fares.)

Give new services a long enough time to become established (ideally two years).

Promote car-sharing.

Encourage electric vehicles in town and village centres with charging points – perhaps free parking for electric cars?

Install community electric vehicle charging points for households that have no off-road parking.

38



39

Thank you to the many groups and individuals that have contributed to the ideas in this document especially Transition Helston. Everyone is agreed that making changes to reduce carbon emissions is challenging though the possibilities for meaningful action are unlimited, and only bound by your creativity and effort! We wish you and your council well in taking the first steps to a safer and healthier future for us and especially our children.



40

WHAT NEXT?

SUGGESTIONS FOR HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL

There is no doubt that a climate emergency is taking place. However, at every level in society, there are things that can be done to help limit the damage that is being done and help prepare our communities. This document is intended to help Helston Town Council (HTC) take appropriate action and do its part in addressing the massive environmental challenges facing all of us. In consultation with other groups and organisations, Transition Helston & District propose several actions, in five broad groups (there will be more detail on these later on).

This is not intended to be, nor cannot be, an exhaustive list. The possibilities for meaningful action are unlimited, and are only bound by our creativity and effort! But in essence, we are asking you to put carbon reduction, carbon sequestration and the environment at the heart of all policy making, now and in the future. Far from being an attempt to stop Helston Town Council from doing things, it is an opportunity for the council to focus on new and exciting policies and actions that may save money (which could be reinvested in offsetting carbon emissions) and will help build a stronger, more resilient community here in Helston. We need to move quickly on these actions, however. There is much work to do, and only 12 years to do it in. Helston Town Council will need to look at removing barriers to positive change, so that we can work as quickly as we can, and engage as many of our community as possible in this process. Whilst this process should not rely on volunteer groups, but should be a HTC initiative, financed and supported by HTC councillors and staff, it would be useful to undertake a neighbourhood audit of different groups / organisations within & around Helston Town that can work with the council on this.

Declare a Climate Emergency

- A hugely powerful statement to make to the people of Helston, but just as importantly, it shows clear support for Cornwall Council and adds to the wave of councils & communities demanding that Westminster takes a meaningful lead on addressing climate change.

Form a Climate / Environment Action Group

- Form an action group with HTC councillors & officers, local experts and representatives of local groups, to focus on addressing the environmental crisis, explore ideas & prioritise actions, and feedback to the monthly full council meeting.

Inform and educate

- It is really important to inform our local community of the environmental crisis we are facing in a way that empowers them to take action themselves, come together as a community, and support the council in their efforts. Many of the changes we need to bring in have the potential to be transformative for our community. Keep the message positive and empowering. Focus on the benefits this will bring. Aim to get the whole community and all age groups involved.

Short-term actions

- Actions that can be taken almost immediately for little or no cost, and that will have an immediate impact

Longer-term goals

- Projects that may take more resources to achieve (*primarily time & money*) or need planning ahead.

WHAT WE CAN DO RIGHT NOW.

In support of the previous broad goals, here are some of the things that HTC can do right now:

- Declare a **Climate Emergency**. Inform Cornwall Council through our Cornwall Councillors and lobby for the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible. This will support Cornwall Council with their requests to Westminster.
- Form a **Climate / Environment Action Group** comprising HTC councillors & officers, local experts and representatives of local groups to focus on addressing the environmental crisis, explore ideas & prioritise actions, and feedback to the monthly full council meeting.
- Lead by example:** individually and as a council adopt the **Ten Climate Pledges**:
 - I pledge to ring my electricity supplier over the next 24 hours and see if I can switch to green energy (if not, I will find one!)
 - I pledge to buy local seasonal produce as much as possible, starting with at least 2 meals a week
 - I pledge to educate myself about the science and impacts of climate change
 - I pledge to contact my MP and my friends to make these pledges too
 - I pledge to walk, cycle, use public transport or register with <https://liftshare.com/uk/community/cornwall> to travel to work or regular journey at least once a week.
 - I pledge to work out my own carbon footprint using one of the many easy to use carbon calculators e.g., <https://footprint.world.org.uk>
 - I pledge to do a 'home energy check' to find out how I can save energy in my home. (<https://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk> (If you don't have internet, ask the Energy Saving Trust on 0800 512 012)
 - I pledge to turn my thermostat down or use a thermometer to reach the lowest comfortable temperature, typically between 18-21°C & think about putting on a jumper instead.
 - I pledge to reduce my holiday air miles by 50%
 - I pledge to research 'driving in a greener way' by researching online or by ringing up a driving instructor and booking a lesson to learn eco-drive ideas.
- Promote the **10 Climate Pledges**, using existing channels of information, and showing a personal lead (e.g. *interview in local press, article on HTC website, etc.*) <http://climatevision.co.uk/top-ten-pledges>

- Commission a neighbourhood & Town Council **carbon audit** as soon as possible, so we have a baseline to work from and to track & celebrate progress. Charmian Larke (01872 864488) can do this for free under Cornwall New Energy's business assist programme. Local councils are not eligible, so it would need to be arranged through Helston CIC or a local business.
- Agree an **annual percentage reduction up to 2030**, understanding that it will become progressively more difficult to find ways of making reductions, and that we need to plan ahead for this.
- Switch to a **renewable energy supplier** for all council run buildings / street lighting etc.
- Install **LED / low energy bulbs** in all council run buildings / street lights
- Become a '**dark sky town**' and turn off street lights after 12pm
- Organise an **Energy Saving Pop-up Advice Surgery** for the local community. Community Energy Plus, a Truro-based charity, have offered to provide this for free (laura@cep.org.uk 0800 9541965)
- Actively work to **reduce consumption**, reduce waste and recycle. Use recycled paper & environmentally friendly cleaning products in all council facilities.
- Commit to using **LOAF ingredients** (*Local, Organic, Animal friendly, Fairly traded*) at council functions. Make it a policy not to use disposable cups, plates or bottled water.
- When awarding **contracts for goods or services**, recognise potential carbon emissions as another element to be considered alongside price. Source locally wherever possible.

Medium to Longer Term Actions.

Communication

- Use the ABCD (Asset Based Community Development) model of working within the community. See www.sharedassets.org.uk for some great examples.
- Create a reliable and regular means for **sharing & exchanging information** with the Helston community, on how they can take positive action, where they can source environmentally friendly products, join community-led initiatives etc. This could include the HTC website, social media, regular column in local press, noticeboards, leaflets, town meetings etc.

- Undertake a **neighbourhood audit** of different groups / organisations within & around Helston Town that can work with the council on this. Reach out to these groups and seek to engage them. Set up regular communication channels.
- Regular contact with **Cornwall Council** to lobby, find out what they're doing and report back. Make sure everyone is in the loop. Encourage them to be brave!
- Act as a voice for the community to **lobby for action on climate change**, raise the profile & share lessons with higher levels of government. Lobby our MP, and Westminster for all initiatives that will support Helston (and Cornwall) to reduce our emissions, now and in the future.

Policy & Planning

- Develop a **Climate / Environment Action Plan**, in consultation with local community.
- Create a legally binding **Neighbourhood Plan** which will define land use for our area. Review currently available standards of high energy efficiency and renewable energy and use these to set minimum requirements within the neighbourhood plan and in consultation on all planning applications, e.g. all new homes to be certified to Passivhaus (http://passivhaustrust.org.uk/what_is_passivhaus.php) or Net Zero Carbon Building (<https://www.ukgbc.org/ukgbc-work/advancing-net-zero/>) standards, include provision for Clean Energy Schemes (wind turbines, solar arrays), and electric car charging points. Ensure that the neighbourhood plan prevents developers from installing oil or bottle gas heating systems.
- Use revenue received from **Community Infrastructure Levies** (if applicable) to invest in carbon emission reduction
- Press for **planning policy changes** at the county and national level, to promote zero carbon development.
- Consider what **assets** belong to the council or may become assets of the council under Cornwall's devolution plans. How might longer-term, more ambitious projects be funded?
- Consider using empty shops in Helston as places for the community to come together. See what happened when Barking & Dagenham did this: (www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/jan/24/neighbourhood-project-barking-dagenham)

Energy / Water

- Commission a thermal imaging study to highlight poor **insulation**. Research and promote grant schemes / other funding to enable people in the community to retro-fit their homes with better insulation. Bulk purchase of loft insulation.
- Support or develop local **clean energy projects** and other positive initiatives, particularly community led with funding or council backing. Explore opportunities for funding initiatives and share these with the community.
- Install **renewable energy sources** on community buildings including community solar panels, passive solar water heating.
- Identify and liaise with organisations working with **vulnerable people** in our area, who may be able to help them access support, e.g. grant funding for insulation, renewable energy.
- Install community **electric vehicle charging points** for households that have no off-road parking. Some communities are providing charging points attached to lampposts (which already have an electricity supply – see <https://www.zap-map.com/london-street-lights-converted-to-ev-charge-points-for-trial/> for example.
- Work with South West Water and the Environment Agency to **reduce water use** and take **flood prevention** measures

Management of parks, green spaces, roadsides & pathways

- Climate Action Plan** should include a plan for the maintenance of all council managed parks, green spaces, roadsides & pathways, and how they can be used for **carbon sequestration, to promote biodiversity, and support local food production**.
- Climate Action Plan** should include a **pollinator action plan**:
<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/grow-nature/about/pollinator-action-plan/>
- Stop future hedge clearances**. Cut less grass & verges – re-wild areas instead. **Plant wild flowers & meadows**. This will reduce the need to mow (thereby reducing carbon emissions and cost) and will help support biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and our struggling insect populations.
- Plant trees** for carbon capture & food – many trees, in public spaces. Make the most of the beautiful walls we have here in Helston to plant fruit trees. Make this a community project. Set up a 'Tree Guardian' scheme – involve young people in this.

- Use parks and green spaces for **community growing** projects. Education is key. Involve local schools in this. Use **Incredible Edible Todmorden** as an example of food planting across the town: <https://www.incredible-edible-todmorden.co.uk/>
- Install **bird & insect boxes**. Another ideal project to involve local schools.
- Stop using weedkillers** and other chemicals in parks, green spaces, roadsides and pathways. Explore natural methods of weed suppression or allow the weeds to thrive and enjoy them – many are beautiful and important food for wildlife.
- Train groundsmen employed by HTC in **regenerative gardening** techniques.
- Make **play areas more natural** needing less maintenance – encourage children to use their imagination instead and allow for risk taking. Children need to learn these skills.
- Explore how Helston **cemetery** can be used to enhance biodiversity. Promote **green burials**.

Business / local producers

- When awarding **contracts for goods or services**, recognise potential carbon emissions as another element to be considered alongside price. Source locally wherever possible.
- Encourage local businesses & producers to themselves declare a climate emergency and work towards becoming carbon neutral. Develop a Helston '**kite mark**' or award scheme to reward local businesses / producers who are committed to working on this and celebrate progress.
- Promote local businesses that offer **refill** options (*e.g. Gillian's Larder, Natural Store*).
- Engage with the local farming community** regarding regenerative farming methods, rainwater runoff, chemical use etc. South West Water / Cornwall Wildlife Trust's 'Upstream Thinking' can help here. Encourage organic, seasonal production.
- Encourage use of locally grown produce and **actively support local producers** who have adopted organic, regenerative practices.

Tourism / Recreation

- Promote **responsible tourism**. Work with holiday rentals, B&B's and hotels to encourage guests not to leave trash in the environment, and preferably bring plastic back with them when they go to the beach. Recommend local tourism-related businesses join CoaST

(www.coastproject.co.uk), a Cornwall-based social enterprise working to support those involved in responsible tourism.

- Develop a **Helston climate specific visitor charter**
(<https://www.coastproject.co.uk/search/coastvisitorcharter>)
- Find ways to reward tourists that arrive by **bus / train / bike**.
- Co-ordination of **beach cleaning**, involving the whole community. *Clean Ocean Sailing* in Gweek will take fishing / plastic waste from beach cleans and recycle it to make kayaks.
- Ask *National Trust* to put **water bottle refilling stations** outside Penrose Stables and on coast path. HTC to do the same in town and encourage surrounding villages to do the same.

Transport

- Install **bike racks** & display a map with safe walking / cycling routes within the local area (already available for National Trust Penrose)
- Promote **public transport**. Encourage and lobby for better bus links to train stations and surrounding area. Establish bus hopper service to the coast, until public transport becomes more affordable.
- Promote **car-sharing** (e.g. <https://liftshare.com/uk/community/cornwall>)
- Encourage electric vehicles** in town centre with charging points – perhaps free parking for electric cars?
- Install community **electric vehicle charging points** for households that have no off-road parking. Some communities are providing charging points attached to lampposts (which already have an electricity supply – see <https://www.zap-map.com/london-street-lights-converted-to-ev-charge-points-for-trial/> for example.

Adaptation

- Read **Adaptation Sub-Committee's UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Evidence Report** which sets out the priority climate change risks and opportunities for the UK:
<https://www.theccc.org.uk/tackling-climate-change/preparing-for-climate-change/uk-climate-change-risk-assessment-2017/>
- Read the **UK Government (DEFRA)'s report on Food Security**:
<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmselect/cmenvfru/243/243.pdf>

- Start thinking about how **fuel and food rationing** may affect our local community (*these are distinct possibilities*). What do we need to start putting in place now? **Support community growing & local producers** engaged in **organic regenerative** agriculture.
- Support **repair café & skills share** projects
- Support networks** for people coming to an awareness of the climate / environment crisis we are facing.
- Consider implications for activities within the town – **schools, elderly, healthcare** – when adaptation is needed
- Work with South West Water and the Environment Agency to **reduce water use** and take **flood prevention** measures

All of these actions actively contribute to **good health, good soil, good communities, positive carbon management, good economics**. That is to say, each action can create **multiple benefits**. By doing this Helston Town Council would be engaging in the **circular economy** and **doughnut economics**. Read more about this here: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/apr/12/doughnut-growth-economics-book-economic-model>

Please add to this list!

Energy and Climate Change

Reducing emissions and improving resilience

Devon Climate Declaration

<https://mk0devonnph9j1kyjbo.kinstacdn.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/81/2019/07/jill-dimond-oKHknfkwCrA-unsplash.jpg>

On the 22nd May 2019, the members of the [Devon Climate Emergency Response Group](#)



<https://www.devon.gov.uk/energyandclimatechange/devon-climate-emergency-response-group>) endorsed the underlying principles of the Devon Climate Declaration. They will now discuss with their leadership team the opportunity for their organisation to sign the Declaration as quickly as their procedures allow.

See the list of signatories at the bottom of this page.

1. This Declaration has been prepared by a consortium of public, private and voluntary organisations collaborating through a Devon Climate Emergency Response Group. It sets out an ambition to tackle climate change that covers all of Devon, including those people who live, work in and visit our county, and those businesses who are based or operate here.
2. We are aware of the significant implications of climate change for Devon's communities; it is already affecting our environment, infrastructure, economy and health & wellbeing. If not addressed, the impact on future generations will be profound and the ability to meet the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals will be severely compromised.
3. We understand that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has advised that carbon emissions must reduce globally by at least 45% by 2030 from 2010 levels and reach net-zero by 2050 if we are to avoid the worst effects of climate change by keeping warming below 1.5 degrees.
4. We will lead in the global response to climate change through our collective action, innovation and influence.
5. Individually, we will review (within 6 months) our plans to reduce our organisation's carbon emissions to meet or exceed these targets, including ensuring the people we do business with are doing the same. We will publicly report our carbon emissions annually in accessible formats.
6. In collaboration, we will engage Devon's residents, businesses and visitors to develop and implement a plan to facilitate the reduction of Devon's production and consumption emissions to meet IPCC recommendations at the latest. We will openly report progress on its delivery. We know this transformational change will be challenging and will include:

- Deploying more renewable, decentralised and smart energy systems
- Retrofitting energy-efficiency measures into our existing buildings
- Constructing zero-carbon new buildings
- Travelling less and using improved walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure more often, and using electric and hydrogen vehicles
- Changing our consumption to use less, re-use more and choose low-carbon options
- Challenging all economic sectors to review their practices and the values of those they do business with
- Divesting from fossil fuels
- Changing our dietary patterns and reducing food waste
- Changing agricultural practices to reduce emissions associated with farming operations, manage soils sustainably and replenish soil carbon
- Encouraging carbon storage such as through tree planting, the use of wood in construction and peatland restoration
- Empowering the people of Devon with the knowledge and skills to act collectively.

7. Additionally, we will work to understand the near-term and future risks of climate change for Devon to plan for how our infrastructure, public services and communities will have to adapt for a 1.5-degree warmer world.

8. Local organisations and communities cannot do this alone as national government plays a key role in many of the policy areas that are vital to reducing emissions and adapting to climate change. We call on government to prioritise decarbonisation and adaptation within decision making and work with us by using its powers to provide the resources and funding necessary to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon and resilient economy and society.

9. We challenge every organisation, business, community and individual to do the same

Signatories

Organisation	Date
<u>South Hams District Council (https://mg.swdevon.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=12455)</u>	6th June 2019
<u>Devon County Council (https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/documents/g3428/Public%20minutes%2012th-Jun-2019%2010.30%20Cabinet.pdf?T=11)</u>	12th June 2019
Devon Wildlife Trust	19th June 2019
<u>Ivybridge Town Council (https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cOLlJdf3FjO6muzjoWQsG8pBQJajXxAS/view?usp=sharing)</u>	24th June 2019
<u>Teignbridge District Council (https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/news/latest-council-news/june-2019/)</u>	25th June 2019
<u>Mid Devon District Council (https://democracy.middevon.gov.uk/documents/g1181/Public%20minutes%2026th-Jun-2019%2018.00%20Council.pdf?T=11)</u>	26th June 2019
<u>Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (https://blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/final_management-group_minutes_july_2019_doc1.pdf)</u>	4th July 2019
<u>East Devon District Council (https://democracy.eastdevon.gov.uk//ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=136&MId=227&Ver=4)</u>	10th July 2019
<u>Exeter City Council (http://committees.exeter.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=114&MId=5802&Ver=4)</u>	23rd July 2019
West Devon Borough Council	23rd July 2019
North Devon District Council	24th July 2019
Cullompton Town Council	25th July 2019
Dartmoor National Park Authority	26th July 2019

Ilfracombe Town Council

12th
August
2019

Motion for Parish Council

Declare a Climate Emergency

Full Council notes:

1. Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world. Global temperatures have already increased by 1 degree Celsius from pre-industrial levels. Atmospheric CO₂ levels are above 400 parts per million (ppm). This far exceeds the 350 ppm deemed to be a safe level for humanity;
2. In order to reduce the chance of runaway Global Warming and limit the effects of Climate Breakdown, it is imperative that we as a species reduce our CO₂eq (carbon equivalent) emissions from their current 6.5 tonnes per person per year to less than 2 tonnes as soon as possible¹;
3. Individuals cannot be expected to make this reduction on their own. Society needs to change its laws, taxation, infrastructure, etc., to make low carbon living easier and the new norm;
4. Carbon emissions result from both production and consumption;
5. Unfortunately, our current plans and actions are not enough. The world is on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement's 1.5 degrees Celsius limit before 2050;²
6. The IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius, published in November 2018, describes the enormous harm that a 2 degrees Celsius rise is likely to cause compared to a 1.5 degrees Celsius, and told us that limiting Global Warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities;³
7. Local Councils around the world are responding by declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and committing resources to address this emergency.⁴

This Parish Council believes that:

1. All governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of Climate Breakdown, and local governments that recognize this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies. It is important for the residents of this parish and the UK that parishes, towns, cities and counties commit to carbon neutrality as quickly as possible;
2. Parishes, Towns, Cities and Local Authorities at all tiers are uniquely placed to lead the world in reducing carbon emissions; they are well placed to help decarbonize villages and more remote areas as they have closer links with their residents;⁵
3. The consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5 degrees Celsius are so severe that preventing this from happening must be humanity's number one priority; and,
4. Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities, as well as improved personal, social and environmental well-being for people, locally and worldwide.

This Parish Council thus:

1. Declares a 'Climate Emergency';
2. Pledges to make this parish carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions (scope 1,2,3);⁶
3. Calls on Devon County Council, South Hams District Council and Westminster to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible and to appoint Citizens assemblies to develop the policies to deliver this target;

4. Work with other local authority organisations such as neighbouring town and parish Councils, DALC (Devon Association of Local Governments) and appropriate government departments (both within the UK and internationally) to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels;
5. Continue to work with partners across the district, county and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans;
6. Place this issue on Parish Council Committee agendas to agree strategies and action plans.
7. Report to Full Council within six months with the actions the Council will take to address this emergency.

Proposed: Cllr

References:

¹ Fossil CO₂ & GHG emissions of all world countries, 2017

<http://edgar.jrc.ec.europa.eu/overview.php?v=CO2andGHG1970-2016&dst=GHGpc>

² World Resources Institute: <https://www.wri.org/blog/2018/10/8-things-you-need-know-about-ipcc-15-c-report>

³ The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius: <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sr15/>

⁴ For example Bristol and Manchester City Councils:

<https://www.businessgreen.com/bg/news/3066475/bristol-and-manchester-unveil-fresh-plans-to-tackle-climate-emergency>

Also US cities, Berkley: <https://www.theclimatemobilization.org/blog/2018/4/25/hoboken-resolves-to-mobilize> And the C40 cities: <https://www.c40.org/other/deadline>

⁵ ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, provides many examples of good practice, models and toolkits for Climate Change Adaptation and Urban Resilience: <http://iclei-europe.org/topics/climate-change-adaptation-urban-resilience/>

⁶ Scope 1,2 and 3 of the Greenhouse Gas protocol explained:

<https://www.carbontrust.com/resources/faqs/services/scope-3-indirect-carbon-emissions>